



PINE GROSBEAK

For more information on Alaska bird festivals and birding maps for Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Kodiak, contact Audubon Alaska at www.AudubonAlaska.org or 907-276-7034.

For more information on birding in Alaska, visit www.birding.alaska.gov

Checklist Compiler

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For a full list of data sources, visit www.AudubonAlaska.org

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FRONT COVER: TRUMPETER SWAN

Anchorage Coastal Audubon Important Bird Area and State Wildlife Refuge

BIRD CHECKLIST

Including Potter Marsh



ACCIDENTAL, CASUAL, UNSUBSTANTIATED KEY

- **Casual:** Occasionally seen, but not every year
- **Accidental:** Only one or two ever seen here
- x** **Unsubstantiated:** no photographic or sample evidence to support sighting
- w **Listed on the Audubon Alaska WatchList of declining or threatened species**
- PM **Documented in Potter Marsh; may be seen elsewhere in checklist area**

Spring: March 16–May 31

Summer: June 1–July 31

Fall: August 1–November 30

Winter: December 1–March 15

SPECIES	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Emperor Goose w				
Cinnamon Teal PM				
Tufted Duck				
Steller's Eider w				
Common Eider w				
Pied-billed Grebe PM				
Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater				
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel PM				
Pelagic Cormorant				
Red-faced Cormorant w				
Double-crested Cormorant PM				
Great Blue Heron PM				
American Coot PM				
Sora PM				
Black Oystercatcher				
Killdeer PM				
Terek Sandpiper PM				
Marbled Godwit w				
Bar-tailed Godwit w				
Red Knot w				
Red-necked Stint				
Ruddy Turnstone PM				
White-rumped Sandpiper				
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper PM				
Stilt Sandpiper				
Buff-breasted Sandpiper w				
Ruff PM				
Wilson's Phalarope				
Red Phalarope				
Ivory Gull w				
Little Gull				
Sabine's Gull				
Black-headed Gull				

SPECIES	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Franklin's Gull				
Ring-billed Gull				
Caspian Tern				
Pomarine Jaeger				
Parasitic Jaeger PM				
Common Murre				
Rhinoceros Auklet				
Snowy Owl				
Rufous Hummingbird				
Black-backed Woodpecker				
American Kestrel PM				
Say's Phoebe PM				
Western Kingbird				
Northwestern Crow				
Horned Lark				
Chestnut-backed Chickadee				
Pacific Wren PM				
Siberian Stonechat				
Northern Wheatear				
Townsend's Solitaire				
Tennessee Warbler				
Nashville Warbler				
Common Yellowthroat PM				
Palm Warbler				
Swamp Sparrow PM				
Lazuli Bunting				
Yellow-headed Blackbird PM				
Brown-headed Cowbird PM				
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch				
Red Crossbill PM				
Ross's Goose PM				
Garganey PM				
Red-throated Pipit				



ANCHORAGE COASTAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND IMPORTANT BIRD AREA ACCESS POINTS

Strung between the Ship Creek industrial center downtown and the busy Seward Highway south of the city is the incredibly rich Anchorage Coastal Important Bird Area (IBA). It spans a 20-mile strip of coastal area including Ship Creek, Westchester Lagoon, Point Woronzof, Campbell Creek, south Anchorage, and Potter Marsh. It contains extensive tidal flats, marsh communities, and alder-bog forests. The southern three-quarters of this area lie within the Anchorage Coastal State Wildlife Refuge, managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to protect wildlife habitat and allow for compatible public uses. Limited hunting is allowed on parts of the refuge (Potter Marsh is excluded), so take note if you are birding in the fall. Visit www.refuges.adfg.alaska.gov for more information on the refuge.

This narrow strip of valuable habitat along Cook Inlet supports some of the greatest numbers and diversity of birds in the Anchorage area. Bird enthusiasts have recorded approximately 220 species, of which about 160 occur annually either as migrants or breeders.

The Anchorage Coastal IBA was established for the large numbers of Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese, Hudsonian Godwits, and Short-billed Dowitchers that stop during migration. Visit www.AudubonAlaska.org for more information about IBAs. Audubon Alaska uses science to identify and conserve important habitat for birds across Alaska, emphasizing public lands and waters. Potter Marsh, at the southern end of the IBA, is one of Anchorage's most popular spots for photographers and local birders, offering seasonal spectacles such as majestic Trumpeter Swans and one of Alaska's most accessible Arctic Tern colonies.

CHECKLIST KEY

- **Very Common:** Easily found in the right habitat and season
- **Common:** Found in the right habitat and season
- **Uncommon:** Found, with persistence, every year in the right habitat and season
- **Rare:** Seen in most years, but in small numbers
- **Casual:** Occasionally seen, but not every year
- PM Documented in Potter Marsh; may be seen elsewhere in checklist area
- N Documented nesting
- W Listed on the Audubon Alaska WatchList of declining or threatened species

WATERFOWL

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Grtr. White-fronted Goose* PM W												
Snow Goose PM												
Brant W												
Cackling Goose PM												
Canada Goose PM N												
Trumpeter Swan PM N												
Tundra Swan PM												
Gadwall PM N												
Eurasian Wigeon PM												
American Wigeon PM N												
Mallard PM N												
Blue-winged Teal PM												
Northern Shoveler PM												
Northern Pintail PM N												
Green-winged Teal PM N												
Canvasback PM N												
Redhead PM												
Ring-necked Duck PM N												
Greater Scaup PM N												
Lesser Scaup PM N												
Harlequin Duck												
Surf Scoter												
White-winged Scoter PM												
Black Scoter PM W												
Long-tailed Duck PM												
Bufflehead PM												
Common Goldeneye PM N												
Barrow's Goldeneye PM												
Common Merganser PM												
Red-breasted Merganser PM												

GROUSE

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Willow Ptarmigan PM												
Spruce Grouse PM												

LOONS AND GREBES

Red-throated Loon PM W												
Pacific Loon PM												
Common Loon PM												

LOONS AND GREBES CONTINUED

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Horned Grebe PM N												
Red-necked Grebe PM N												

HAWKS AND EAGLES

Osprey PM												
Golden Eagle PM												
Northern Harrier PM N												
Sharp-shinned Hawk PM N												
Northern Goshawk PM N												
Bald Eagle PM N												
Red-tailed Hawk* PM N												
Rough-legged Hawk PM												

CRANES

Sandhill Crane PM N												
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PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover PM												
American Golden-Plover PM W												
Pacific Golden-Plover PM												
Semipalmated Plover PM N												

SANDPIPERS

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Spotted Sandpiper PM N												
Solitary Sandpiper PM N W												
Wandering Tattler PM W												
Greater Yellowlegs PM N												
Lesser Yellowlegs PM N W												
Whimbrel PM W												
Hudsonian Godwit PM W												
Black Turnstone PM W												
Surfbird PM W												
Sanderling PM												
Semipalmated Sandpiper PM												
Western Sandpiper PM												
Least Sandpiper PM N												
Baird's Sandpiper PM												
Pectoral Sandpiper PM												
Rock Sandpiper W												
Dunlin PM W												
Short-billed Dowitcher PM N W												
Long-billed Dowitcher PM												
Wilson's Snipe PM N												
Red-necked Phalarope PM N												

GULLS, TERNS, JAEGERERS

Black-legged Kittiwake PM												
Bonaparte's Gull PM												
Mew Gull PM N												
Herring Gull** PM N												
Thayer's Gull PM												
Glaucous-winged Gull** PM N												

*Most Red-tailed Hawks are Harlan's subspecies in this range.

**Most Glaucous-winged and Herring Gulls are hybrids in this range.

*Tule subspecies is on the WatchList, other subspecies are not.

